

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/05 BY [redacted]

13 Cr 385
10/10/05

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Alexandria Division

MAR 6 2005

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
v.)
Ali Al-Timimi) Criminal No. 1:04cr385
) Hon. Leonie M. Brinkema

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S SECOND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISCLOSE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION PURSUANT TO
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION PROCEDURES ACT (18 U.S.C. App. 3 § 5(a))

On March 7, 2005, defendant Ali Al-Timimi filed a notice of intent to disclose information pursuant to the Classified Information Procedures Act ("CIPA"). Specifically, the defense wishes to "elicit testimony from government officials regarding the fact that from on or about [redacted], until the date that the agent admits that such surveillance ended, the government intercepted every phone call and every e-mail that the defendant made or received." (Defendant's Second Notice of Intent to Disclose Classified Information at p. 1). The defense further seeks to elicit testimony from "government officials" about a number of things that the intercepted communications do *not* contain. At pages three and four of the defense motion, a list containing 14 separate items is set forth. Each item, it is claimed, sets forth a category of information summarizing what the defendant's intercepted communications do not contain. The defense apparently expects a government agent to verify this claim.

In essence the defendant is seeking to disclose the existence [redacted] phone calls and [redacted] emails for the purpose of having the government publicly assert the

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

[REDACTED]

information that they *do not* contain. However such "evidence" is probative of nothing. It is as if a defendant charged with soliciting a contract killing over the telephone sought to introduce every phone call that he made in which he did not solicit a contract killing. This would clearly not be admissible evidence.

And in this case, most of the charged conduct occurred, not over the telephone or by email, but in person. Therefore, the fact that there would be numerous phone calls and emails [REDACTED] which are completely irrelevant to the issues in this case is to be expected. It is difficult to see how introducing evidence that Timimi had communications with his wife, his friends and his colleagues where he dealt with mundane, day-to-day issues would be helpful to a jury. The fact is, virtually all of the communications that the defense seeks to disclose were with people other than Timimi's co-conspirators. It goes without saying, that Timimi would not communicate details of a criminal conspiracy with individuals who are not a party to that conspiracy.

Rule 401 of the Federal Rules of Evidence is clear:

"Relevant evidence" means evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence.

The fact that Timimi called his wife to pick up some items at the grocery store, or received emails from America On Line offering a free upgrade would not have any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable. It simply has no bearing on the things that he said at Yong Kwon's

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

[REDACTED]
house on September 16, 2001, at his own house on October 15, 2001, or as it relates to any of the other charges in the indictment.

It is important to note that in this indictment, the defendant is not charged with soliciting anyone he met to commit crimes. Rather, he is charged with selectively and discretely soliciting a very specific group of people. As with any criminal, Timimi had two sides. There was the side that he exposed to the people whom he solicited to commit crimes. And there was the side that he showed to the rest of the world. Offering a summary consisting [REDACTED] communications to show the latter side of Timimi makes no sense. It would simply serve to divert the jury's attention and confuse the issues in the case.

The Fourth Circuit in *United States v. Moussaoui*, 382 F.3d 453 (4th Cir. 2004) set forth the proper standard to apply when a defendant seeks disclosure of evidence of this sort:

In the CIPA context, we have adopted the standard articulated by the Supreme Court in *Roviaro v. United States*, 353 U.S. 53, 77 S.Ct. 623, 1 L.Ed.2d 639 (1957) for determining whether the government's privilege in classified information must give way. See *United States v. Smith*, 780 F.2d 1102, 1107-10 (4th Cir. 1985)(en banc). Under that standard, a defendant becomes entitled to disclosure of classified information upon a showing that the information "is relevant and helpful to the defense...or is essential to a fair determination of a cause." *Id.* at 1107 (quoting *Roviaro* 353 U.S. at 60-61, 77 S.Ct. 623), see *United States v. Fernandez*, 913 F.2d 148, 154 (4th Cir. 1990) (explaining that "Smith requires the admission of classified information" once the defendant has satisfied the *Roviaro* standard).

In a second *Moussaoui* opinion, the Fourth Circuit again reiterated that even in the context of a case involving classified information, it is still the defendant's burden to show the materiality of the discovery material he seeks. *United States v. Moussaoui*, 365 F.3d 292, 308 (4th Cir. 2004).

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

[REDACTED]

Here the defense has failed in this regard. They have offered no authority for the proposition that they should be entitled to disclose classified conversations that do not relate to any of the issues in the case, and, in fact, are being offered to show instances where the defendant did things other than participate in this criminal conspiracy. This information is not relevant and helpful to the defense in this case. It is not relevant because it does not address any of the charges in the indictment, rather it seeks to bring in a vast amount of information that is wholly unrelated to those charges. It is also not helpful to the defense, since it does not address the instances in which the defendant is alleged to have engaged in criminal conduct.

While it is submitted that the defendant should not be entitled to disclosure of this information under any circumstance, there is the added fact that Timimi suspected that his communications were being monitored, so he was careful not to say anything incriminating. On April 1, 2003, Timimi was the subject of a FISA surveillance, now de-classified, in which he spoke with Randall Royer and Hammad Abdur-Raheem. At one point in this conversation he stated:

I mean...obviously my phone is tapped...they're gonna...the conversation is obviously being recorded. [Gov't. Exhibit 1G10].

Ten days later on April 11, 2003 Timimi was the subject of a consensually monitored phone call with Yong Kwon. At one point during this conversation he stated:

You're calling me from Korea, they're probably taping the call.

Later in the same conversation Timimi again reiterates:

I mean, the, the phone call's obviously taped and so they're gonna, play this back to either you or me....

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

[REDACTED]

As Timimi had correctly surmised, he was under surveillance. Therefore, it is to be expected that he would be very careful in all of his communications. Consequently, offering a summary of more than [REDACTED] of those communications, for the proposition that on many occasions he did not say the things over an open line that he said in a small private meeting, is probative of nothing. Timimi is a bright man. He correctly concluded that he was under surveillance as early as April 1, 2003. Therefore, the fact that there exist phone calls and emails which are not inculpatory is to be expected. However it is not properly admissible evidence.

For the reasons set forth herein, Defendant's Second Notice of Intent to Disclose Classified Information Pursuant to Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App. 3 § 5 (a)) should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. McNulty

United States Attorney

By:

John T. Gibbs

Trial Attorney

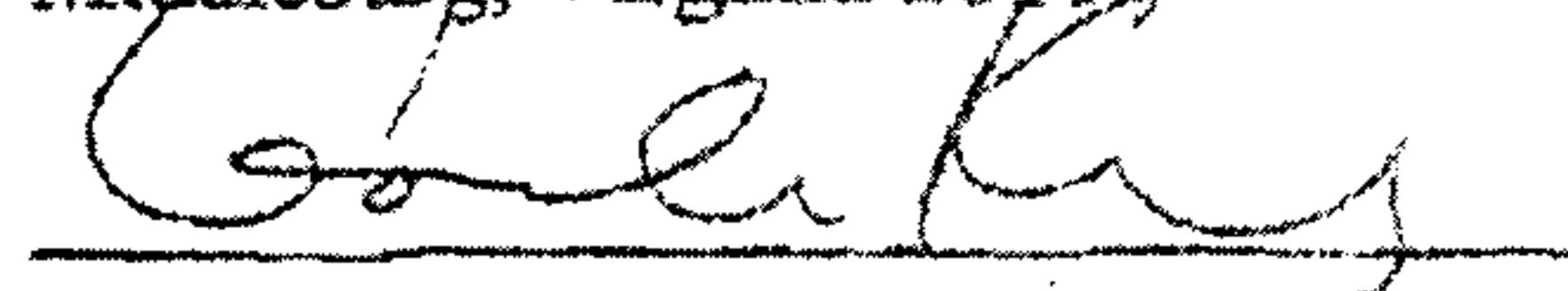
REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, this 10th day of March 2005, I caused a copy of the attached GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S SECOND NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISCLOSE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION PURSUANT TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION PROCEDURES ACT (18 U.S.C. App. 3 § 5(a)) to be served by hand through Court Security Officer Mary Cradlin upon:

Edward B. MacMahon, Jr.
P.O. Box 903
107 East Washington Street
Middleburg, Virginia 20118



REDACTED / CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE